

CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING OPERATION RECOVERS 168 JUVENILES

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the work of the FBI, local and State law enforcement, and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children for successfully conducting a weeklong operation to address commercial child sex trafficking in the United States.

During this operation, more than 168 juveniles being exploited through commercial child sex trafficking were rescued by law enforcement. The youngest of these victims was just 11 years old, and some of the victims had never even been reported as missing. The operation spanned across 106 different cities and resulted in 281 pimps being arrested who were recruiting minors off the streets and online.

While the operation was a success, it absolutely underscores the need for action to combat child sex trafficking. The House has passed five different bipartisan bills to protect and help victims, go after the pimps and the johns, and also end international sex trafficking. We need the Senate to take action as well, Mr. Speaker.

These are children. And by working together with law enforcement and victims' groups, we will save lives.

OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

(Mr. McNERNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, our future is clouded by ocean acidification. Since the beginning of the industrial revolution, ocean waters have seen a 30 percent increase in acidity. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, by the end of this century, the waters of the ocean could be nearly 150 percent more acidic, resulting in a pH that the oceans haven't seen for more than 20 million years.

This will have a dramatic and devastating effect on many marine creatures. It disrupts the calcification process of many species, including oysters, clams, corals, and plankton, putting the entire food chain at risk.

This will damage California's \$24 billion fishing industry, which supports 145,000 jobs; and California's \$25 million-a-year shellfish industry could also disappear.

We need to take action to prevent the effects of climate change from getting worse. We cannot stand by as we see our environment continue to deteriorate. The cost of inaction is too great. I call on this Congress to act to protect our planet for our children and our grandchildren.

□ 1230

JOBS

(Mr. FITZPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, President Obama was in my home State of Pennsylvania recently to tour a business and talk about the importance of American manufacturing.

If the President is serious, let me give him a few suggestions on things he can do right now—call for the quick passage of the Made in America Act to establish an official American-made standard; announce his support for a bipartisan plan to address the skills gap; use his pen to approve the Keystone XL pipeline; and truly take steps towards an all-of-the-above American energy policy that drives down energy costs for everyone; and increase pressure on the Senate to move on the dozens of House-passed jobs bills that will grow our economy, increase stability, and empower businesses and employees.

Mr. Speaker, simply put, Americans are tired of talk. Now is the time for bold action to help manufacturers, working families, and our Nation—politics aside.

IMMIGRATION

(Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago tomorrow, the Senate passed bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform. Democrats and Republicans worked together to pass a bill that is good for our economy, strengthens our security, and recognizes the contributions that immigrants make to our country.

This bill represents a good faith compromise by our Senate colleagues to find common ground. Over the past year, House Republicans failed to even bring an immigration bill up for a vote.

Earlier this year, Republican leadership outlined their principles for immigration reform, yet failed to introduce a bill based on these principles. They have claimed they want to pass reform, but their actions fail to match the rhetoric.

Instead of bringing up comprehensive legislation that spurs economic growth and lowers the deficit, we have seen attacks on DREAMers and excuses for inaction.

Mr. Speaker, Democrats and Republicans in the Senate have acted. Democrats in the House support reform and have also introduced a bill. A broad coalition—from the high-tech sector to law enforcement, the faith community to agriculture—backs reform.

The American people overwhelmingly favor a comprehensive bill. The only ones standing in the way are House Republicans. It is time to do

what is right for our country and bring comprehensive immigration reform up for a vote now.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FIRE CHIEF RYAN SEKERSKI OF COCHRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, ORDINARY AMERICAN HERO

(Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a brave young man from back in my district, Ryan Sekerski, a 28-year veteran of a volunteer fire department.

Now, this is a picture of Mr. Sekerski with his family. We celebrated his act of heroism. I have no idea how he is registered or how he votes, but I do know where his heart is.

What you are looking at is a tanker truck. Now, Mr. Sekerski, on his way home from work, heard on a radio that a gas tanker truck had swerved to avoid being in a collision, had hit a utility pole, was on its side, and seeping gas out that was on fire.

When he arrived at the scene, his question was: Is the driver okay? Nobody knew the answer.

When he found out the driver was still inside this truck, he went to his trunk, got on his volunteer fireman's gear, went inside this burning inferno, with no regard for his own life and his own safety, but more regard for the person trapped inside—what a remarkable act of heroism.

At a time when our country is looking for strong Americans, people like Ryan Sekerski are ordinary people doing extraordinary things every day.

Why? Because they are truly Americans—especially on the weekend we have coming up, we celebrate these types of people and what they have done.

ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE WINDSOR RULING

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, today is the 1-year anniversary of the historic decision to strike down the Defense of Marriage Act. We celebrate the progress we have made for LGBT equality; but, more importantly, we must recommit to ending the injustice that remains.

An announcement last week by the administration regarding ongoing efforts to extend Federal benefits to legally married same-sex couples in the wake of that Windsor decision clarifies what I have long suspected.

Unless Congress acts, legally married same-sex servicemembers, veterans, and their spouses will continue to face discrimination when accessing their benefits from the VA.

That is why, nearly a year ago, I introduced H.R. 2529, the Veteran Spouses Equal Treatment Act. This bipartisan legislation ensures that no